

Carbondale area proving attractive to Fairchild-Weston and other new industries

Every year, thousands of people travel from Carbondale to Finch Hill Corners via route 106. Most of them never think about that section of highway becoming an industrialized area.

The fact of the matter, however, is that within the past year one tract of land in particular has caught the eye of developers and may, sooner or later, become the site of a major industry.

When Saint Joseph's and Carbondale General Hospital considered merging and building a new hospital, the property owned by the Walter Powell family was one of the prime areas considered. The hospital merger idea appears to have died, but another corporation, Fairchild-Weston, has recently expressed interest in building a new plant at the site which straddles the boundary between Fell and Greenfield Townships.

What's so special about the Powell property? As they say in real estate: location, location, location.

Many business executives who work under pressure and whose

lives are hectic to say the least, simply enjoy working in a rural setting. There's something pleasurable about driving to work in a scenic area.

People who have traveled throughout the U.S. can honestly say that Northeastern Pennsylvania is one of the most beautiful sections of the country. Of course there are lots of beautiful locations in the United

States, but most of them, like the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone Park, are far away from the population centers or market areas of major industry.

The sites around Carbondale provide beautiful scenery and yet there are relatively close to everything an industry needs - a good labor force, housing for employees, schools, primary roads, shopping centers, utilities,

fire and police protection.

The only things lacking at the current Powell property site along route 106 are city water and sewer. Township officials and the Carbondale Area Chamber of Commerce are working hard to make those services available. Once the utilities are in place it will only be a matter of time until a new industry adds another chapter to the history of progress in the Carbondale area.

Recreational facilities attract thousands

One of the primary advantages of the Carbondale area is the variety of recreation available. Local residents tend to take for granted the lakes, hills, and forests which have always been here. Visitors to this area notice them and are favorably impressed. Former area residents miss them.

Within a ten mile radius of Carbondale there are 21 lakes, most of which are open for swimming, boating and fishing.

Golfers can play at Elkview, Homestead, Panorama or Skyline golf courses, and skiers can take to the slopes at Elk Mountain, just 10 miles from Carbondale.

Trailbikers and snowmobilers enjoy the hundreds of miles of backwoods trails that crisscross the mountains.

Hunters and fishermen find almost every kind of wildlife within a five mile radius of Carbondale including deer, bear, rabbit, beaver, fox, racoon, and even mink.

Tennis courts have been built in Carbondale and softball and baseball leagues abound. The new addition to the YMCA and the swimming pool at Carbondale Area High School make indoor sports readily available.

Thousands of bowlers are in-

cluded in league play at Valley Lanes, one of the finest bowling alleys in the country.

Movies, concerts, and theater productions provide entertainment and are only minutes away. (Remember, it takes less time to drive from Carbondale to Scranton than it takes to drive from one side of a major city to the other.)

Few areas in the country have as many recreational possibilities as we have. Since industries are interested in the recreational opportunities for their employees, the Carbondale area should be very attractive.